<u>REMARKS</u>

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Allen S. Melser Reg. No. 27,215

400 Seventh Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004-2201 (202) 638-6666

Atty. Docket: P69186US0 Date: October 16, 2003

ASM/mch